

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors
Minutes

February 20, 2003
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, Ca.

Vice Chair Don Anderson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. at the above location. It was determined there was a quorum of (10) voting members present.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency
Butte	(Jane Dolan)	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	David Womble	Ben Carter	
Glenn	(Denny Bungarz)	Don Anderson	
Shasta	Glenn Hawes	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	Russell Young	
Tehama	Bill Borrer	Brendon Flynn	
Yolo	(Lynnel Pollock)	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DWR			(Dwight Russell)
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			(Pete Rabbon)
US F&WS			Mike Hoover
US COE			(Mark Charlton)
Bureau of Reclamation			(Myrnie Mayville)
Cal DWR			Alison Groom

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

Also present an estimated audience of 20 interested persons

Manager Burt Bundy

Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary

1. Public Participation, Unscheduled Matters: Diana Jacobs, California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG), announced the CALFED Bay Delta Public Advisory Committee is meeting in Chico on March 25th and 26th. Included will be a tour of various sites in the north state. A question was raised as to how the public could be involved and where to go for additional information; the SRCAF staff will forward information as it becomes available.
The California Legacy Project will hold a workshop in Chico on April 8th and 9th to look at conservation values and needs throughout the state. Diana will have more information available at the March 20th SRCAF Board meeting.
2. Consent Calendar : David Womble moved to adopt the January 16, 2003 minutes, seconded by Mel Dodgin. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Agency Reports: Greg Werner, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) gave an update on the CDFG management plan. A public input workshop will be scheduled for the latter part of March. Greg will give a presentation at the March 20th SRCAF Board meeting.
4. Public Use and Recreation Study – Power Point presentation by Greg Werner from TNC. Prior to Greg’s presentation, Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, gave a brief background on the study. The study was funded by a CALFED grant (97NO2) awarded to TNC, Wildlife Conservation Board, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and CDFG and was conducted by EDAW. The purpose was to assess existing and potential public recreation uses, access, needs and opportunities in a 100-mile long, four-county area between Red Bluff and Colusa.

The presentation discussed the process that was involved in the study that included identifying existing recreation facilities and infrastructure, interviewing land managers and law enforcement personnel, and two public workshops in the study area. The study also identified and made recommendations for future public recreation access opportunities with special consideration of “focus sites” including the Ward Tract and the Pine Creek Area. Other recommendations included establishing public information coordination, outreach and planning programs, enhancing law enforcement support and coordination, establishing a “boat trail” system, and establishing a boating coordinator position. The study is available on the website @ www.sacramentoriverportal.org; more detailed information will be available on the public access website this summer. A concern was raised that the information might heighten trespass problems on those properties accessible by boat only. Because of the problems encountered during i.e., large tubing events, a suggestion was made that young people be included in the planning process. Greg noted the study has been forwarded to the four involved counties and he would be also be glad to make a Power Point presentation to the counties if there was an interest.

Many of the recommendations in the study involved the SRCAF and Greg asked the Board what they see as the role of the organization, whether as leading, coordinating, or supporting. Burt also asked the Board to consider the level of involvement and the possible opportunities presented in the recommendations, specifically the boating coordinator position, public outreach, and law enforcement support and coordination.
5. Board Committee Reports:
 - **Executive Committee** – Don reported that the Committee discussed the consultant selection for the capacity building effort. The Executive Committee will meet and interview the candidates on March 6th and will make the selection by March 12th.
 - **Landowner Assurances Committee** – Ben reported on the February 12th meeting which was well attended and included representatives from the California Department of Food and Agriculture and a representative from Congressman Herger’s office. The Committee reviewed some examples of conservations plans that were in place, or in the process of being developed, to see what the goals and

requirements were and how much involvement was required by landowners. The next meeting is scheduled for March 12th in Colusa at the Fair Board office, 3:00 p.m. Discussion will continue on the options available that would allow landowners to continue with “routine and ongoing agricultural activities” without fear of prosecution in the event of “take” of listed or endangered species. Ben thanked Renee Hawkins and Chris Beale, CALFED legal consultants, for their assistance in this process.

- **PILT/Economic Committee-** Burt reported on the February 12th meeting in the absence of Chair Denny Bungarz. At the meeting Denny reviewed the new PILT legislation HR-380 which has just been introduced and would require full PILT funding for five years. Marlyce Myers, TNC, discussed the Socioeconomic Study, received by the Committee for informational purposes only, no other action was taken or determined to be necessary. At the meeting a request was made that the Board only receive the study, not accept or endorse. The study was also sent to the counties for their information. The comments that were received by TNC on the study will be included in the final report and the comments will be made available to the SRCAF Board. Burt noted that while the study provides information, economic studies are based on assumptions and that TNC had tried to deal with all issues and present as balanced a report as possible. Denny will make a report on the study at the April SRCAF Board meeting.
- **Technical Advisory Committee** – Anjanette reported on a Caltrans project that was discussed at the February 4th TAC meeting. Caltrans has purchased a mitigation site on Toomes Creek in Tehama County to offset impacts to riparian habitat and the valley elderberry longhorn beetle resulting from Caltrans projects. The 100-foot buffer zone on the Caltrans property was discussed at the TAC, whether or not the width was sufficient. At the Board meeting a question was raised about who will be responsible for maintenance on the buffer zone after the 10-year time frame.

6. Manager’s Report :

- **Hamilton City** – the next work group meeting is set for April 1. The Feasibility Study is scheduled to be completed by December, 2003; the report will be submitted to Congress in 2004 for consideration for Federal authorization to implement the project.
- **Interpretive Center** – Discussion is continuing on exploring the possibility of locating an Interpretive Center near Hamilton City.
- **Woodson Bridge** – Burt announced there has been approval for a Section 1135 project at Woodson Bridge. The project, which will have a \$5 Million cap, is looking at removal of rock revetment at one location and placing rock protection at the west end of the bridge. The funding for the state match will be discussed with the Reclamation Board, no general funds are available but there may be bond funds that could be used.

- **State Parks** – A general plan for the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park is in process; a meeting will be held in early March to seek public input.
 - **Projects** – A draft list of the various projects that have been reviewed through the SRCAF was made available to the Board members. The list included almost 60 projects, some of which had not gone forward because of the review process and many that were revised to reflect input from the TAC and Board discussions. Some projects have not come to this body such as those related to county land use and fish screen projects while others such as M&T, Hamilton City, and Woodson Bridge have moved forward because of the focus at the SRCAF.
 - **Project Review Process** – The project review committee met earlier that day to discuss the project fact sheet and review process. The committee made several changes to the Project Fact Sheet including adding language that defined the purpose of the review process: to provide a uniform information base of projects for the public through the SRCAF and to determine if the proposal is consistent with Handbook guidelines. Burt noted the SRCAF does not approve or disapprove of projects but rather tries to influence them.
 - **Handbook Amendment Committee** – The committee met on February 10th and discussed suggested changes to the language in sections 3 and 4, Page 6-12. It was emphasized that the language has not been accepted and discussion will continue before it eventually goes back to the TAC and then to the Board.
7. Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date was set for March 20th at 3:00 p.m. at the Monday Afternoon Club, Willows.